



# CARE OF RUGS & CARPETS

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Rugs and carpets are a large investment. If you want them to wear well and stay attractive, keep them clean. Dirt on the surface dulls the color of the rug; embedded particles cut its fibers.

You yourself must decide how often and how thoroughly you clean your rugs. The amount of dirt that is tracked in and the time and energy you have to spend will influence your decision.

## GENERAL CARE

A good rug deserves a smooth surface to lie on. A pad under the rug absorbs noise, softens the shock of walking, and increases the life of the carpet by cushioning it against wear. Follow manufacturer's directions for care and cleaning of the pad.

Occasionally reverse the position of rugs to distribute wear. Furniture cups under the legs of heavy furniture prevent excessive pressure on small areas. When you move heavy furniture, lift it; never drag it over the rug.

Give immediate attention to anything that is spilled on the rug. Blot up as much as possible with a soft cloth or tissue. A solution of mild synthetic detergent and water (1 teaspoon detergent to 1 cup lukewarm water) will remove many spots if used before the spot dries. Using a circular motion, sponge the area with a soft cloth, beginning at the outer edge and working in. Blot up the solution and rinse with clear water.

Some spots that are not removed by this method may disappear if you apply a mixture of 1 teaspoon white vinegar and 3 teaspoons lukewarm water. Finish by sponging with a cloth dampened in lukewarm water.

Remove grease spots with a grease solvent such as carbon tetrachloride. Use cautiously if the rug has a rubber backing—it may dissolve the rubber. When the grease has been removed, sponge with clear lukewarm water and blot up excess moisture.

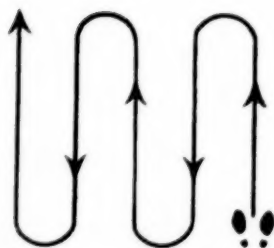
Moth and carpet beetle damage is less apt to occur when rugs are kept clean. After a rug is thoroughly cleaned, spray under large pieces of furniture with a moth repellent. Most sprays are effective for several months so you will not need to move heavy chairs and davenports every time the rugs are cleaned with the vacuum cleaner.

## Regular care

Where there is heavy traffic on a rug, you may need to clean it daily with a vacuum cleaner or carpet sweeper. A light vacuuming (three passes over each area) will pick up much of the soil before it becomes embedded in the fibers. At intervals you may want to clean the rug more thoroughly by using the vacuum cleaner for a longer period of time.

New rugs may have short loose fibers embedded in the pile as a result of clipping during the manufacturing process. It does not affect the wearing quality of the rug to remove these fibers with a vacuum cleaner.

To remove surface litter from grass, fiber, and sisal rugs, use the floor brush attachment of the vacuum cleaner.



To use an upright cleaner, slowly push the cleaner the full length of the rug, turn around, and come back along your first path. Long easy strokes eliminate jerky, tiring movements.

## Occasional care

Areas in front of doorways and in traffic lanes may become more soiled than other sections of the rug. The appearance of the rug can be improved by cleaning these soiled areas with a shampoo or an absorbent cleaner.

Heavy dirt filters through woven fiber rugs. It may be necessary to roll them up occasionally and clean the floor and the back of the rug. For thorough cleaning, follow manufacturer's directions.

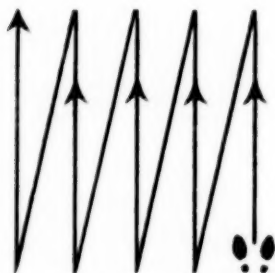
## Care of small rugs

Throw rugs used at doorways and in traffic lanes need more frequent cleaning than large rugs.

When you use a carpet sweeper or vacuum cleaner on small rugs, run the cleaner diagonally across the rug instead of lengthwise. The rug is less apt to wrinkle and get caught in the cleaner. *Never shake or snap small throw rugs.* The snapping action may break yarns in the backing or loosen the bindings.

Small, firmly hooked rugs can be cleaned with the floor brush of the vacuum cleaner, but you may need to reduce the suction action of the cleaner either mechanically or by holding the brush at an angle.

Most small rugs, tufted, woven, or crocheted, can be washed and dried by machine. For rugs with an adhesive backing, manufacturers' directions suggest using warm, not hot, water, and drying at a low temperature. Small woven rugs with pile can be cleaned with an absorbent cleaner or a shampoo.



To use the rug nozzle of a tank- or canister-type cleaner, quickly push the tool two or three feet ahead of you, then draw it back diagonally. This method is less tiring than reaching farther and turning corners.

## CLEANING RUGS

### Professional cleaning

Professional cleaners have machines which clean rugs thoroughly at a comparatively small cost to you. Light-colored rugs and cotton, rayon, or nylon rugs may need more frequent professional cleaning than dark wool rugs. The two kinds of professional rug cleaning are plant cleaning and on-location cleaning.

In plant cleaning, special machines wash, rinse, and remove water from rugs. Drying rooms are engineered for correct temperature control and air circulation so the carpet dries thoroughly in a very short time. A woven rug generally shrinks a little when it is cleaned.

On-location cleaning can be done in your home by a professional cleaner when it is difficult to take up wall-to-wall carpeting. Heavy loose dirt is removed by vacuuming, and a detergent is applied to dissolve the remaining dirt and greasy substances. Dirty suds and detergent are removed by a special vacuum and the carpet is allowed to dry. Adequate drying time must be allowed before the rug can be used. There is no noticeable shrinkage in on-location cleaning because the backing yarns do not get wet and because the carpet is tacked in place. On-location cleaning is satisfactory, but is not as thorough as plant cleaning.

### Home cleaning

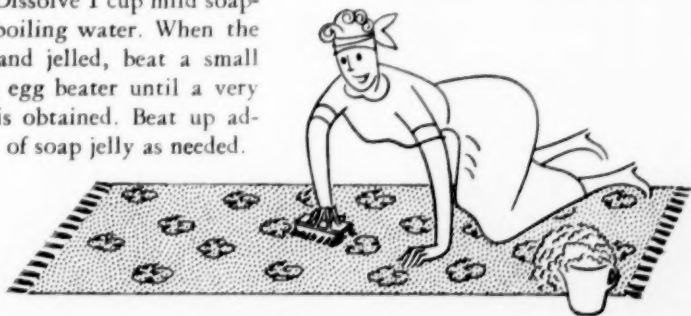
Surface soil can be removed from rugs with an absorbent cleaner or a shampoo. Absorbents and shampoos do not remove embedded soil. Repeated treatments without professional care may leave a dull, lifeless-looking rug.

**Absorbents** for cleaning rugs may be a powder or fine particles of sawdust saturated with a solvent. These cleaners are brushed into the rug, allowed to stand, and then removed with a vacuum cleaner. For best results, follow the manufacturer's directions carefully.

**Shampoos** may be satisfactory for small rugs, but don't try to shampoo a large rug. It's a lot of work, the rug can't be rinsed properly, and drying is very slow.

Before starting to shampoo a rug, remove all spots, and vacuum both right and wrong sides to remove dust. Shampoo with one of the following:

**a. Soap jelly:** Dissolve 1 cup mild soap-flakes in 4 cups boiling water. When the mixture is cool and jelled, beat a small amount with an egg beater until a very stiff, dry lather is obtained. Beat up additional amounts of soap jelly as needed.



b. Synthetic detergent foam: Add  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup mild synthetic detergent to 1 cup hot water. Beat to a stiff foam with an egg beater. This type of lather disappears rapidly and needs frequent re-beating.

**Method:** With a soft brush, apply the lather in a circular motion to a small area of the rug. Remove surface lather with a wide metal spatula. Rinse off remaining lather with a clean cloth dipped in warm water and wrung dry. Little or no lather remains when a detergent is used. Repeat the rinse two or three times. The back of the rug should never feel wet.

Apply the lather to another small area, overlapping with the first area to prevent the formation of rings. Follow by rinsing. After the entire rug has been cleaned, smooth the nap in one direction with a slightly damp cloth or brush. The rug can be dried on the floor with all windows open, in the draft of an electric fan, or out-of-doors in the shade.

**Commercial preparations:** Follow manufacturer's directions. Some preparations are for cotton rugs only; others can be used on all types of fibers.

## RESIZING RUGS

Old limp rugs can be resized with glue or liquid rubber to give them body and make them lie flat. Soften  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound animal glue in 1 cup cold water in the top of a double boiler. When it is soft, add 3 cups boiling water. Set the double boiler over low heat and stir occasionally until the glue is dissolved. Apply hot glue to the back of the rug with a paintbrush. Sizing should not penetrate to the right side. Stretch rug on a flat surface to dry. If necessary, tack it down to keep the edges from curling.

You can also buy liquid rubber, which makes the rug lie flat and keeps it from slipping. Follow the directions on the container for best results.

## MENDING RUGS

The life of any rug or carpet can be prolonged if you mend damaged areas promptly. Frayed ends should be bound or finished with fringe. Worn selvages should be overcast and finished the same way as frayed ends. Press-on binding is easy to use for finishing worn edges. To mend bare spots caused by moths or burns, sew in tufts or loops of matching color yarn, then clip the loops to make a pile.

Torn carpets can be repaired by darning the edges together on the wrong side. Sew a piece of binding over the darn to make it stronger, or use press-on tape.



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